



HF Happenings

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You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp.

South African Radio League HF Phone Contest

The aim of the HF Phone Contest is for participants to contact as many amateurs in Southern Africa as possible on one of the 20, 40 and 80 m amateur bands. The Phone Contest takes place from 13:00 to 16:30 UTC on Sunday 7 August 2016 with activity on 14 125 to 14 300 kHz, 7 063 to 7 100 and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz and 3 603 to 3 650 and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz.

You can participate as a Single Operator Single Band station, a Single Operator All Band station, a Multi Operator Single Band station or a Multi Operator All Band station. Individual competitors and club stations are encouraged to compete. The exchange is a RS report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001. According to Rule 5.(c) of the General Rules states, "However, a multi-operator station transmitting on several bands simultaneously may at their discretion use separate number sequences for each band."

Phone contacts count 1 point. Count two points for each area (see below) on each band and count 2 points for each station contacted on all three bands.

Area 1: ZS1 Western Cape

Area 2: ZS2 Eastern Cape

Area 3: ZS3 Northern Cape

Area 4: ZS4 Free State

Area 5: ZS5 KwaZulu-Natal

Area 6: ZS6 Gauteng, Mpumalanga; Limpopo and North West

Area 7: 3DA Swaziland, 7P Lesotho, C9 Mozambique, Z2 Zimbabwe, ZS8 Marion Island

Area 8: 9J Zambia, A2 Botswana, V5 Namibia, ZD9 Gough and Tristan da Cunha Islands, ZS7 Antarctica

Area 9: DX

Certificates are awarded to the first three places and the highest single band score in the contest. Silent Keys Memorial Trophy SSB - awarded by the Contest Committee to the amateur who achieves the highest score during the annual South African Radio League HF Phone Contest and the Joseph White Trophy - awarded by the Contest Committee to the amateur who achieves the highest score on any one band, during the annual South African Radio League HF Phone Contest.

Submit your log in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel format and labelled "your call sign HF Phone," by 14 August 2016 by e-mail to zs4bfm@mweb.co.za

VKOEK Video

(Short Cape Town to Heard Island Video). Bill, AE0EE, has created a video, which encompasses the voyage of the Braveheart from Cape Town through the landing on Heard Island. In it, not only is there the rolling of the sea, but the deployment of two types of scientific buoys. First up is an ARGO diving buoy, followed by a NOAA drift buoy. The birds seen as the ship arrives at Atlas Cove are the endemic Heard Island cormorants. Upon reaching the island, the team was greeted by king penguins. The 2:35 minute video can be viewed at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xu-vwl6_y7U



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
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Word to the Wise

Trap: A parallel tuned circuit used to electrically isolate one section of an antenna from another www.arrl.org/hf-trap-antennas.

Operating Tip

Use a second VFO for more contacts. If you're not set up for SO2R (single operator, two radio) operation, or if you're assigned to a band in a multi-op, you can still use a second VFO (SO2V) to line up and work additional contacts or better yet, multipliers, between contacts made using the main VFO. Getting comfortable working the other VFO can also help if you do try SO2R in the future. Some logging programs will assist you in hunting multipliers on the second VFO by providing a band map with stations to click.

2016 Dayton Antenna Forum

Presentations from the 2016 Dayton Antenna Forum are now available on www.k3lr.com/Dayton/Dayton2016/. Included are presentations on (intentionally) bent-element Yagi antennas, the future of the ARRL *Antenna Book*, low band antennas at W3LPL and wideband techniques used in OWA antennas.

Panadapters

Panadapters are considered one of the new *must haves* when contesting nowadays, as they increase overall situational awareness. Mark, K6UFO, found a very simple way to add a panadapter to his Elecraft K3, "The Win4K3Suite software now supports the SDRPlay SDR receiver as a panadapter http://va2fsq.com/?page_id=842. I ordered an SDRPlay www.sdrplay.com from Ham Radio Outlet <http://hamradio.com/>. When received, I installed the drivers as described by "Start Here" at SDRPlay <http://sdrplay.com/starthere.php>, then downloaded and installed Win4K3Suite with a 30-day free trial. I connected my K3 and made a few initial settings and the panadapter was working! I wanted to use my Writelog logging software <https://writelog.com/> to control the K3, so I used Win4K3's 'AUX/CAT' feature to provide a virtual serial port connection to Writelog while Win4K3 was physically connected to the K3. All of this is documented in the Win4K3 manual. I created a pair of virtual serial ports using Microham software <http://microham-usa.com/>, but Eltima www.eltima.com/products/vspdxp/ or Com0com <http://com0com.sourceforge.net/> would have also worked. Now my K3 connects to Win4K3, and one of Win4K3's 'CAT/AUX ports' connects to my logging software. Both Win4K3 and Writelog can control the radio, and I have a panadapter! I purchased Win4K3 for \$50, to bring my total panadapter cost to \$200. Other SDR software can be used with the SDRPlay, but Win4K3 is already setup for a K3 and the SDRPlay as a panadapter, so it was very straightforward."

July

1 – Start of SARL Membership year; Bloemfontein ARC 36th birthday
1 to 10 – Knysna Oyster Festival
3 – ZS5 Sprint
6 – Eid-UL-Fitr
8 to 10 – Dullstroom Winter Festival
9 and 10 – IARU HF Championships
10 – SARL Youth Net
14 to 17 – Coffee and Chocolate Expo, Monte Casino
16 – Winter QRP Sprint
16 and 17 – Franschhoek Bastille Festival
16 to 23 – Region 1 YOTA Summer Camp in Austria
18 – Schools open
24 – ZS2 Sprint
25 – Closing date for articles for the August Radio ZS
30 – Special General Meeting at the NARC
30 – SA Fly-fishing and Flytng Expo, Somerset West
30 and 31 – Islands on the Air Contest

August

4 to 6 – !Naba Food and Wine Festival Upington
6 – Thabazimbi Apiesdoring Carnival
7 – SARL HF Phone Contest
9 – National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint
12 to 14 – West Coast Craft Festival, Velddrif
14 – SARL Youth Net
20 and 21 – International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend
21 – SARL HF Digital Contest
23 – Closing date for September Radio ZS articles
26 and 27 – Hantam Vleisfees, Calvinia
28 – SARL HF CW Contest

African DX

Africa DX Net - every Saturday afternoon from 14:00 UTC on 14,260 MHz hosted by Mike, V51MA, Leon, A25SL, and Tinus, ZS6MHK.

Morocco, CN. Richard, F8FGU will be active as CN2RN from the Middle Atlas range, Morocco between 25 July and 14 August. He will operate SSB and CW on the HF bands. QSL via bureau to F8FGU.

Central African Republic, TL. Several sources are reporting that Ken, LA7GIA, will be active as TL8AO from Bangui sometime this year. Ken already has his license. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using mainly CW. Look for more details to be forthcoming. Watch his Web page for possible update at <http://www.la7gia.com>

African Islands

IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz



Madagascar, 5R. John, IK5BCM, is now active as 5R8BC from Nosy Be Island (AF-057) until 2 August. Activity will be holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and possibly the Digital modes. Equipment is an Icom 706 and Yaesu 897 using 100 watts into an Inverted V Dipole antenna. QSL via his home call sign, LoTW, ClubLog's OQRS or eQSL.

Pantelleria Island, AF-018. Raffaele, IH9YMC, will be active from Pantelleria Island (WW Loc JM56xt), African Italy, during the RSGB IOTA Contest (30 and 31 July) Single-Op entry. QSL via eQSL.

Robben Island, AF-064. Look for ZS9V to be active from Robben Island during the International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend [ILLW] (19 to 21 August). There will be two stations on the air with 500 w amps using a Inverted "V" and TH3 antennas. QSL via LoTW.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 25 July to 1 August 2016

SKCC Sprint

00:00 - 02:00 UTC 27 July

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: (none)

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points:

5 points per Centurion member QSO per

band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO

per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band

Multipliers: Each state, province or country once

Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 29 July 2016

E-mail log summary to: (none)

Post log summary at:

http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php

Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

Phone Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 July
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 29 July 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Content_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 27 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 28 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 30 July 2016

Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html>

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 29 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 20 m Only
Classes: Single Op (Fox/Hound)
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 30 July 2016
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 29 July
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 July 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 29 July
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 31 July 2016

E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

Feld Hell Sprint
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 30 July
Mode: Feld Hell
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: Standard: 100 watts
QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 3 August 2016
Upload log at:
<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/waaao-sprint>

RSGB IOTA Contest
12:00 UTC 30 July to 12:00 UTC 31 July
Mode: CW, SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op 12 hours - island or world - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op 24 hours - island or world - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted 12 hours - island or world - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted 24 hours - island or world - CW, SSB or mixed - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single Island - QRP, low or high; Multi-Two Island - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts;
QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RS(T), serial no and IOTA no (if applicable)
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each IOTA reference once per band per mode

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 7 August 2016
E-mail logs to: iota.logs@rsgbcc.org
Mail logs to: RSGB IOTA Contest, Radio Society of Great Britain, 3 Abbey Court, Fraser Road, Priory Business Park, Bedford MK44 3WH, England
Find rules at:
<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2016/riota.shtml>

ARS Flight of the Bumblebees
17:00 - 21:00 UTC 31 July
Mode: CW
Bands: 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Home-Based; Bumblebee
Max power: 5 Watts
Exchange: Home: RST state, province or country and power; Bumblebee: RST, state, province or country and bumblebee no
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total Bumblebees x 3
Submit logs by: 14 August 2016
E-mail logs to: ARSBumblebees@gmail.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.arsqrp.blogspot.com/>
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html>

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 22 July
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 24 July 2016
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
<http://www.3830scores.com/>
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 2 August

Phone Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 3 August

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 3 August and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 4 August

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW), 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB), 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 4 August (Dig)

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 5 August

NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 5 August

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 5 August

TARA Grid Dip Shindig, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 6 August

10-10 International SSB Summer Contest, 00:01 UTC 6 August to 23:59 UTC 7 August

European HF Championship, 12:00 - 23:59 UTC 6 August

North American CW QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 6 August to 05:59 UTC 7 August

SARL HF Phone Contest, 13:00 - 16:30 UTC 7 August

VHF Happenings

What can we expect on VHF in the coming months?

Warmer conditions will start to appear in the month of August. So what can we expect during the months ahead? Tropo Enhancement and Ducting should produce strong signals again for the next 8 months or longer over the frequency range of 50 MHz to 10 GHz. Although Meteor scatter on digital can be worked throughout the year on 50 to 432 MHz, analogue contacts are only possible during meteor showers from April to beginning of August, and again from October to beginning of January. The TEP season runs from September to November and February to April, producing DX signals on 50 -144 MHz to Southern Europe. The Sporadic-E in the Southern Hemisphere peaks in December and January with very strong signals on 50 - 144 MHz up to 2 500 km.

Then of course, we have year-round propagation such as the following: Aircraft Scatter and Tropo Scatter manifest on 50 MHz to 10 GHz, but Tropo Scatter requires a high gain antenna and higher power. EME DX can be worked daily on 50 MHz to 24 GHz, as long as the Moon is visible at both ends. Then local and DX Satellite contacts are possible from 144/432 MHz and even up to 2,4 GHz if suitable satellites are on the air. Also, see the colour propagation chart on the front cover of the September/October 2013 issue of Radio ZS.

VHF News from Division 3

Kobus van der Merwe, ZS3JPY, reported from Kleinzee that they had great 2 metre QSOs on 145,500 FM simplex on Tuesday evening, 19 July, along the West Coast of South Africa. It covered Andre, V51LZ, in Oranjemund, Kobus, ZS3JPY, in Kleinzee, Charles, ZS1CF, in Langebaan and Tienie, ZS1HO, in Vredenburg for an hour and a half with good S9 signals. Charles, ZS1CF, beamed at the Picketberg with a 10 element Yagi vertical polarized; they also tried the 145,625 MHz repeater on Picketberg, but it did not even make a noise, again great

backscatter playing a roll. Pieter, V51PJ with 1 000 watts was on frequency, but was beaming to Oranjemund horizontal and Andre, V51LZ, received him but no one else could hear him. The Northern Cape ARC, ZS3NC, was asked to listen as well and Andre, ZS3AG in Kimberly, could hear only traces of audio. It was a small opening with great results again.

WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone, 14:00 - 18:00 UTC 6 August

August UHF Contest, 18:00 UTC 6 August to 18:00 UTC 7 August

Items used with acknowledgement to the ARRL Letter, the ARRL DX News, the ARRL Contest Update, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL Newsletter, WIA-News, the RSGB News, DxCoffee, Southgate ARC News, DX World and the Amateur Radio Newsletter